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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE Vjesnik.RECLAMATION OF SINJSKO POLJE FLOOD AREA

Of the 30,000 hectares of karst polje in Dalmatia, 20,000 hectares are flooded every year. The Five-Year Plan for Dalmatia calls for the reclamation of the Sinjsko Polje, the Polasko Polje, the Imotsko Polje, the Bekiljsko Polje, and the Nedinsko swamp. It is estimated that these areas potentially can produce 300 million dinars' worth of agricultural products per year.

Reclamation of the Sinjsko Polje began in 1946. The Cetina River flows through the middle of the Sinjsko Polje, which stretches over an area of 13 kilometers between Trilj and Han.

Because of the Cetina River's regular floods only 1,800 out of a total of 6,000 hectares of land were fit for cultivation prior to reclamation, and those only in the high regions. The remaining 4,200 hectares were used as pasture only during summers.

When reclamation is completed, the Cetina will be banked on both sides by levees, and drainage canals will be built. Ruda Creek, which flows into the Cetina, also will be prevented from flooding. The Cetina's bed near Trilj will be cleaned, so as to prevent future floods.

Thus far, the right levee of the Cetina and three of the four canals have been completed.

The Grab Creek drainage canal and the levee on Ruda Creek have also been completed.

This year, construction of the left levee of the Cetina River, the left drainage canal, and the water gate at the mouth of Ruda Creek are scheduled to be completed.

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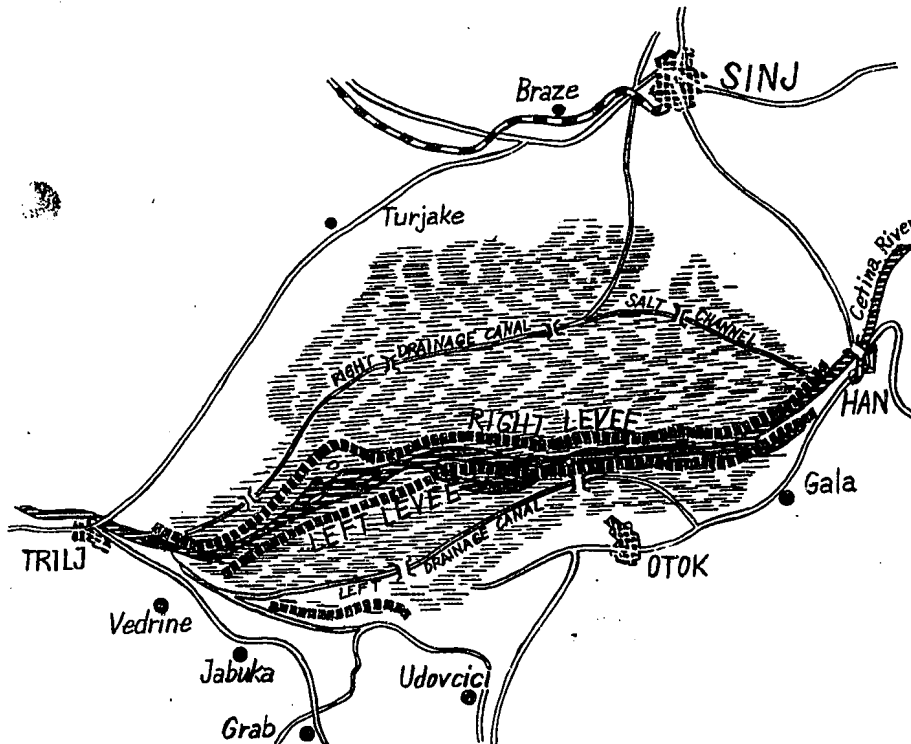
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Floods in Nadinsko Swamp have prevented the cultivation of 3,000 hectares of land. The area is sometimes flooded by water which rises as high as 7 meters. When this occurs, the neighboring Polasko Polje also is flooded. Much of the reclamation of Nadinsko Swamp has already taken place. Last year the Tinj tunnel, which connects Polasko Polje with Lake Vranje, was constructed.

In the future a channel will be built near Prtenjaca to connect Nadinsko Swamp with Polasko Polje. With the reclamation of Nadinsko Swamp and Polasko Polje, 700 hectares of land will be made available for agriculture.



Plan of the Reclamation of Sinjsko Polje.
Shaded area represents flooded territory.

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